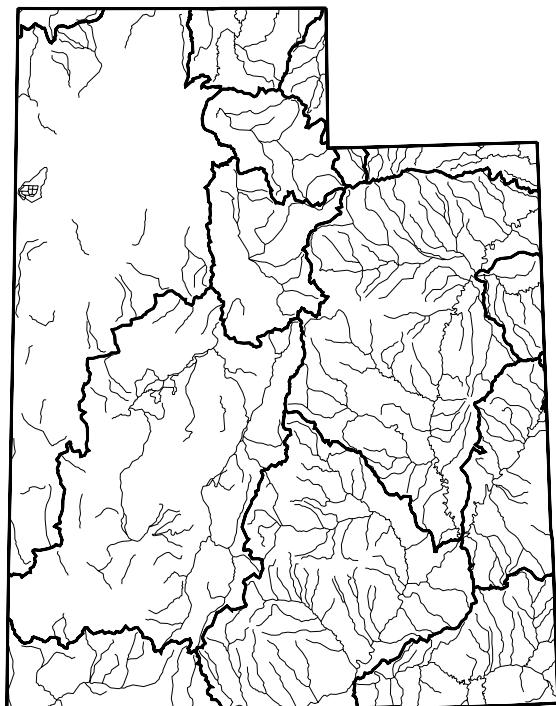


# Utah



— Basin Boundaries  
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

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## Surface Water Quality

Of the 8,705 river miles assessed, 82% fully support aquatic life uses, 12% partially support these uses, and 6% do not support aquatic life uses. The most common pollutants impacting rivers and streams are total dissolved solids, habitat alterations, metals, sediments, and nutrients. Agricultural practices, such as grazing, improper manure management, and irrigation, elevate nutrient and sediment loading into streams. Point sources also contribute to nutrient loads, while natural conditions and stream

channel modifications also result in impairment. The loss of riparian habitat impacts the fisheries on many streams.

About 65% of the assessed lake acres fully support aquatic life uses, 34% partially support these uses, and 1% do not support aquatic life uses. The leading problems in lakes include nutrients, siltation, low dissolved oxygen, suspended solids, and noxious aquatic plants. The major sources of pollutants are agricultural practices, industrial and municipal point sources, drawdown of reservoirs, and land development.

Fish and wildlife consumption advisories are posted on the lower portion of Ashley Creek drainage and Stewart Lake in Uintah County due to elevated levels of selenium found in fish, ducks, and American coots.

Utah did not report on the condition of wetlands.

## Ground Water Quality

In general, the quality of ground water in Utah has remained relatively good throughout the state, although some ground water degradation occurs in south central Utah in the metropolitan area of Salt Lake City and along the Wasatch Front area from Payson north to Brigham City. Sources that present a risk for ground water contamination include agricultural chemical facilities, animal feedlots, storage tanks, surface impoundments, waste tailings, septic systems, road salt storage areas, spills, and urban runoff. In 1994, new ground water regulations went into effect.







## Programs to Restore Water Quality

The state's Nonpoint Source Task Force is responsible for coordinating nonpoint source programs in Utah. The Task Force is a broad-based group with representatives from federal, state, and local agencies; local governments; agricultural groups; conservation organizations; and wildlife advocates. The Task Force helped state water quality and agricultural agencies prioritize watersheds in need of NPS pollution controls. As best management practices are implemented, the Task Force will update and revise the priority list.

## Programs to Assess Water Quality

In 1993, Utah adopted a basin-wide water quality monitoring approach. Intensive surveys have been completed on the lower Bear River, Weber River, Jordan River, Uinta, Sevier River, Cedar/Beaver, and Lower Colorado watershed management units. Assessments for the West Colorado and Southeast Colorado River watersheds will be completed in 1999, completing the 5-year monitoring cycle. In addition, Utah has developed a fixed-station network of 63 stations to evaluate water quality trends throughout the state. Monitoring is also conducted for Total Maximum Daily Load determinations, industrial and municipal facility compliance, non-point source projects, and at 18 benthic macroinvertebrate sampling stations.

## Individual Use Support in Utah

Designated Use <sup>a</sup>	Percent				
	Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Fair (Partially Supporting)	Poor (Not Supporting)	Not Attainable
<b>Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 85,916)<sup>b</sup></b>					
	Total Miles Assessed	82			
	8,705		-	12	6
				100	
	16	0	-	0	0
		98			
	518		-	0	2
<b>Lakes (Total Acres = 481,638)</b>					
	Total Acres Assessed	65			
	460,561		0	34	1
		100			
	460,561		0	0	0
		99			
	162,760		0	0	1

- Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

<sup>a</sup> A subset of Utah's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the state's 305(b) report for a full description of the state's uses.

<sup>b</sup> Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.